

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 OMB-01 EB-11 OPR-02 SY-10 A-01

OC-06 IO-12 SCA-01 SCS-03 EUR-25 AF-10 AID-20 RSR-01

NSCE-00 /170 W

----- 096343

O 031445 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1945

DIA

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5063

DEPT ALSO PASS CAIRO

ATHENS FOR AMB BUFFUM

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS LE

SUBJ: INTERNAL SECURITY: SITREP 4

REF: BEIRUT 5021 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: OVERALL SITUATION IMPROVED AS OF 1330 Z MAY 3

ALTHOUGH SPORADIC FEDAYEEN ATTACKS PRODUCED HEAVY ARMY

FIRING IN SOME AREAS AROUND BEIRUT REFUGEE CAMPS BETWEEN MID-

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DAY AND MID- AFTERNOON. FEDAYEEN LEADERSHIP CONTINUES CALL FOR APPLICATION CEASE- FIRE ALTHOUGH SOME ELEMENTS NOT COMPLY- ING. OUTSIDE OF BEIRUT, WE HAVE SOLID REPORTS THAT ALL CALM TO DATE. POLITICAL SITUATION APPARENTLY SATISFACTORY WITH PRESIDENT FRANGIE TAKING STRONG STAND IN COUNCIL MINISTERS AND OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS SEEKING SOLUTION. GOL CONSIDERS ATTITUDE OTHER ARAB STATES, ESPECIALLY SYRIA, HELPFUL THUS FAR. END SUMMARY.

1. SITUATION AS OF 1330 Z REMAINS GENERALLY AS STATED REFTEL, WITH ARMY APPARENTLY MAINTAINING ITS CONTROL IN COUNTRYSIDE AND SUCH TOWNS AS SIDON, NABATIYYAH AND TRIPOLI. AT APPROXIMATELY 1000 Z, ARMY KILLED FOUR FEDAYEEN WHEN THEY FAILED STOP FOR ROADBLOCK NEAR HASBAYA (IN ARKUB) AND ARRESTED FOUR OTHERS FOUND CARRYING ARMS IN STREETS OF NABATIYYAH. ARMY REPORTEDLY IS IN CONTROL OF AREAS AROUND ALL NINE REFUGEE CAMPS IN OUTLYING AREAS AND IS KEEPING CLOSE WATCH ON ACTIVITIES THEREIN. CAMPS REPORTED IN STATE OF ALERT BUT NO RPT NO INCIDENTS.

2. IN AND AROUND BEIRUT ITSELF, PERIOD OF CALM THAT PREVAILED AS OF 0800 Z WAS DISTURBED AROUND 0900 Z, WHEN ARMY OBLIGED RESUME FIRING IN SOME AREAS AS RESULT OF SPORADIC FEDAYEEN ATTACKS. LATTER INCLUDED INTER ALIA AMBUSH OF LEBANESE GENDARMES AT SUBURBAN SANDS PRISON (KILLING 3 POLICEMEN AND WOUNDING 7 OTHERS); DESTRUCTION OF ARMY TANK NEAR TAL ZAATAR CAMP AND INDISCRIMINATE FIRING OF ROCKETS FROM THAT CAMP TOWARD RESIDENTIAL AREAS ABOVE BEIRUT; CONTINUED SHOOTING FROM FEDAYEEN IN DBAYEH CAMP NORTH OF BEIRUT AND BUILDINGS NEAR SABRA CAMP, AND ONE INSTANCE OF FIRING AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AT BUILDING IN RAOUCHE AREA FROM PASSING CAR. IN ALL INSTANCES, ARMY STRUCK BACK HARD, POUNDING BOTH DEBAYEH AND TAL ZAATAR CAMPS WITH TANKS AND ARTILLERY THROUGHOUT MOST OF AFTERNOON AND SURROUNDING BUILDINGS WHERE URBAN TERRORISTS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE GONE INTO HIDING. ACCORDING TO ARMY AND SECURITY OFFICIAL OTHER POINTS IN AND AROUND BEIRUT REMAIN CALM.

3. THROUGHOUT ALL THIS, CEASE- FIRE APPEARS TO HAVE REMAINED REASONABLE INTACT, WITH ' ARAFAT AND FEDAYEEN LEADERSHIP CALLING FOR EFFECTIVE CEASE- FIRE AND MIXED ARMY- FEDAYEEN PATROLS MOVING THROUGH PARTS O
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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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